



Friday Notes is designed to enhance communication among various agricultural sectors, educators, students, and the public who are interested in a variety of plant, animal, food, and environmental issues. Friday Notes advocates the pursuit of credible, unbiased, science-based information. Material contained in linked articles is from the original authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of CAST.

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## Announcements



STOP FOOD LOSS  
AND WASTE.  
FOR THE PEOPLE.  
FOR THE PLANET.

[Stop Food Waste Day](#) occurred recently, but as the USDA points out, such [waste is a constant issue](#). The department is hosting a "[Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair](#)" May 26. Check here to [access the CAST Issue Paper \*Food Loss and Waste\*](#).

Join CAST on May 11 for the [announcement of the 2021 Borlaug CAST Communication Award winner](#). See page two below for more about this and a blog from Dr. Alexa Lamm, University of Georgia and the [2020 BCCA winner](#).

The [Plant Biology Annual Meeting](#) in July is hosted by the American Society of Plant Biologists.

Check here for information about the [Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application](#) presented by the World Food Prize.

North Carolina State's Center for Integrated Fungal Research will host a free, virtual showcase [event May 18 focused on the plant microbiome](#).

April 30, 2021

## Climate Challenges Call for Innovation and Science

The United States recently joined with other countries to form the [Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate](#). The USDA pledged millions of dollars for research innovations to [improve soil health, climate-smart agriculture, and forestry](#). University researchers at Ohio State and Florida are [developing ways to counter harmful algal blooms](#)



As the links throughout *Friday Notes* often demonstrate, efforts to improve our environment come from farmers, university researchers, company policymakers, nonprofit societies, governments, and many others. Debates about tactics arise--the American Farm Bureau Federation and other ag groups emphasize that policies about [conservation efforts should keep agricultural interests in mind](#). But innovation and science are at the forefront of these global efforts. CAST has published several [noteworthy papers about climate and the environment](#), and more publications are being developed. Click here to [access CAST publications](#).

## News and Views

**USDA:** (1) Two research agencies--the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture--[will stay in Kansas City](#). (2) Check here for many [USDA radio news audio clips](#). (3) Jenny Lester Moffitt was nominated to administer the Agriculture Department's [marketing and animal and plant health efforts](#). (4) The USDA announced efforts to provide [nutrition to more than 30 million children](#) during summer.

**Tax Policy:** The National Cattlemen's Beef Association looks at [suggested changes](#) to existing tax codes and possible detrimental effects on agriculture. The USDA issued this statement explaining a [commitment to honor America's family farms](#) in any policy shifts. Some are [asking how the intentions could be fashioned into law](#).

**COVID Update:** Most [rural areas see fewer cases and deaths](#)

## CAST College Corner

[University of Kentucky](#) students explain why getting vaccinated is vital for themselves, their families, and their communities.

[Iowa State University](#) students have an opportunity to propose the redesign of an area of Ames with the goals of reducing nutrient runoff and improving recreation.

Ten [research projects from Cal Poly students](#) were selected to represent the university at the annual California State University system-wide competition.

Check throughout *Friday Notes* to see more featured articles from member universities.

## CAST Social Media

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CAST [welcomes ideas](#) for future publications and projects.

but vaccination rates lag in many locations. Jayson Lusk (Purdue and [2017 BCCA](#)) explains research about COVID death [rates for farm workers](#) and economic effects on agriculture.

**Need for Farm Workers:** This rancher's popular social media post expressed the frustrations [dealing with farm labor shortages](#) and the H-2A guest worker program.

## Far Side of the Barn

**Birds of Oz (videos):** An Australian woman's "[balcony birds](#)" have found online fame, with millions of views on TikTok and Instagram. And this [bird speaks so much like a human](#) it's eerie.



**Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (videos):** Some birds aren't so friendly, as [hundreds of them invaded](#) this California home, and continuing the "Birds" film theme, a [massive flock of cockatoos descended](#) upon an Australian neighborhood.

**As Homer Would Say, "Mmm, Donuts" (videos):** Altered popcorn continues to make news—this variety supposedly [tastes like an original glazed donut](#) from Krispy Kreme, the company with a secret donut recipe.

## CAST Updates

### *Make Sustainable Agriculture Personal: Let's Save Water Together--guest blog from Alexa Lamm*

"The majority of U.S. residents live in urban and suburban areas, disconnected from their agrarian roots. To gain support for sustainable farming practices from urban audiences, we must make the messaging personal. Storytelling is a great place to start when sharing new sustainable farming innovations." Read more on the [guest blog from Dr. Alexa Lamm here](#).



## BCCA Winner Announcement Event May 11



The [Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#) (BCCA) is presented annually for outstanding achievement by a scientist, engineer, technologist, or other professional working in the agricultural, environmental, or food sectors for contributing to the advancement of science in the public policy arena. During the past eleven years, this prestigious award has been presented to [accomplished, influential scientists and communicators](#). The announcement for the 2021 BCCA winner will

## Animal Agriculture and Environmental News

**Poultry Production Resources:** This USDA site provides many articles about [poultry prices, research, and production](#).

**Reducing Livestock Emissions:** Seaweed in cattle feed could [reduce methane emissions from beef cattle](#), according to new findings from researchers at UC-Davis.

**Pork Insights (video):** In this recent National Pork Board webinar, three experts provide insights into [pork demand and market volatility](#).

**Doin' It Right:** This farm couple runs an [environmentally conscious and sustainable poultry](#) and crop operation.

**Shoo, Fly:** This Kansas State University veterinary entomologist explains the importance of [insecticidal ear tags for fly control in cattle](#) herds.

**Atlantic Salmon Landlocked in Florida:** Five million Atlantic salmon are swimming in tanks located in Florida buildings—the fish-farm operation intends to be the [world's largest land-based fish farm](#) (related links at right).

**Bee Buzz:** Mississippi State University Extension specialists explain the [importance of carpenter bees and bumble bees](#) as pollinators—and how to attract them. And North Carolina State joined other universities as a ["Bee Campus USA."](#)



These researchers found that basic environmental enrichment can [reduce the effect of diseases in aquaculture environment](#). This CAST Commentary, *The Science and Regulation of Food from Genetically Engineered Animals*, [looks back at the roots of the approval of genetically modified salmon](#) as human food.

Researchers at the University of Missouri earned three USDA/NIFA [grants to study animal reproduction](#).

## Food Science and Safety News

**Misleading Meat Reporting:** Agriculture Secretary Vilsack [countered disinformation](#) about the Biden Administration and the consumption of red meat.

**Meaty (video):** Frank Mitloehner (UC-Davis and [2019 BCCA](#)) brings up debates about [cows and the environment](#)—and explains why eating less meat won't save the planet.

**Good Bones:** A Kansas State University nutritionist recommends [foods that contain bone-strengthening nutrients](#).

**"Fluffier" Eggs? (video):** Scrambled eggs generate many recipe varieties, including this one that says [adding a single ingredient](#) might improve the quality.

**Instagram Chefs:** During the pandemic, many NYC chefs have [turned to Instagram to sell food](#)—and their career paths may have altered for good.

**How Do You Like Them Apples?** The Cosmic Crisp apple is [continuing its growth trajectory](#) in sales.



An innovative agriculture startup hopes to boost jobs and fresh produce access by opening an [indoor vertical farm in California](#). And, a business joined with the University of Arkansas to [research the science of vertical farming](#).

## Plant Agriculture and Environmental News

**Biofuels in Court:** The biofuels industry, the EPA, and oil refineries laid out their [arguments to the U.S. Supreme Court](#) on granting refinery [exemption extensions under the](#)

[Renewable Fuel Standard](#).

**Biodiesel Benefits:** This new study shares evidence that shows how [biodiesel can have positive impacts](#) on both the environment and human health.

**Corn Prices Poppin':** Corn prices [continue to rise](#), driven by weather conditions and strong demand from China.

**Seaweed Is Having a Moment (video):** Some producers are looking to seaweed as a way to [combine taste and nutrition with environmental progress](#).

**Gene Editing:** The Cornell Alliance for Science describes two genetically modified plants—one to [control armyworms in Brazil](#) and one for [cotton production in Mexico](#).

**Fine Wine:** This article says [sustainable wine production](#) in California uses practices that are environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically viable.



[Genes from carnivorous plants](#) could help tomatoes and other crops defend themselves from pathogenic fungi and insects.

This seed company has expanded its line of tomatoes [resistant to plant virus](#).

## International News

**Crouching Tiger, Hidden Villagers (video):** A rare [Siberian tiger was on the loose](#) in a Chinese village, and the residents hid until it was captured and moved to a reserve.

**EU and Animal Welfare:** The European [approach to animal welfare](#) has been the subject of a renewed debate.

**China Pork:** China's ongoing [battle with African swine fever](#) continues to hinder its domestic pork production.

**People in the Zone:** The Chernobyl area [never completely emptied of people](#), and 35 years after the nuclear meltdown, residents, workers, and visitors gathered to commemorate.

**The Dogs of Chernobyl (related to above):** Hundreds of [stray dogs roam](#) the Chernobyl exclusion zone—dealing with radioactivity, wildfires, and starvation.

**Big Veg:** An aging British man [started a Twitter account to share his vegetables](#), and he now has thousands of followers, a book deal, and appearances in an ad campaign.



Experts judge and handle giant [tuna at the world's largest fish market](#) in Tokyo, but many worry about overfishing and prices.

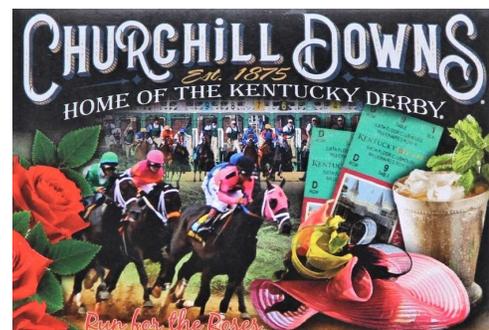
## General Interest News

**Grain Bin Robot:** Two University of Nebraska–Lincoln [engineering students have been honored](#) for their invention designed to keep farmers safe in grain bins.

**California Dreaming—of Rain:** As yet [another season of drought returns to California](#), concern sweeps across the vast and fertile San Joaquin Valley.

**Tall in the Saddle:** This [13-year-old bull rider is a world champion](#) in his age group, and he honors the history of the Black competitors who have participated in this rodeo sport.

**Wine Time:** University of Arkansas specialists are studying [how grapes fared through fermentation](#) and how their color, taste, aroma, and "mouth feel" evolve over time.



Fans will face some [pandemic adjustments as they return to Churchill Downs](#) for the Kentucky

**Farming for Diversity and Equity:** These North Carolina A&T State alumna sisters serve their community through a [combination of agriculture, Black identity, and entrepreneurship](#), and this video features a [community of Black farmers](#) in upstate New York.

**Pollution on the Move:** These Texas A&M oceanographers found that [human pollution from Hurricane Harvey](#) in 2017 made it 100 miles off the coast to the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Derby on May 1.

This video provides information about the race [history, the jockeys, the food, and the fastest ever horse](#)—Secretariat.

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- \* American Seed Trade Association
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- \* American Society of Plant Biologists
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- \* CropLife America
- \* Crop Science Society of America
- \* Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- \* Bayer
- \* National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a Contractor to the Beef Checkoff
- \* National Corn Growers Association/Iowa Corn Promotion Board
- \* National Milk Producers Federation
- \* National Pork Board
- \* North Central Weed Science Society
- \* Northeastern Weed Science Society
- \* Poultry Science Association
- \* Rural Sociological Society
- \* Society for In Vitro Biology
- \* Soil Science Society of America
- \* Syngenta Crop Protection
- \* The Fertilizer Institute
- \* Tuskegee University
- \* United Soybean Board
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- \* U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
- \* Weed Science Society of America
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Dan Gogerty (Communications and *Friday Notes* Editor)  
dgogerty@cast-science.org  
Dylana Luett (Communications and Social Media Specialist)  
dluett@cast-science.org  
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology  
4420 West Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447  
Phone: 515-292-2125



The Science Source for Food,  
Agricultural, and Environmental Issues

*\*\* With assistance from Megan Wickham (Scientific Editor) and Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist)*

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